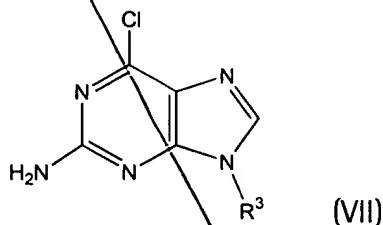
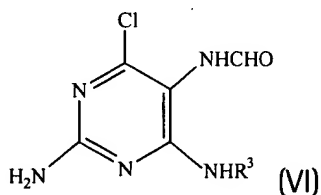




Claim 9 (Thrice amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)



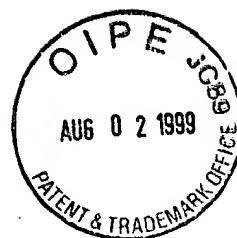
wherein R³ is hydrogen; hydroxyl or a protected hydroxyl; a C₃₋₇ carbocyclic group optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; [a C₂₋₈ hydrocarbyl] an acyclic group, wherein carbon atoms may be substituted by one or more heteroatoms [such as N, O or S,] and wherein such [C₂₋₈ hydrocarbyl] acyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; or a C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group, wherein at least one carbon atom is replaced by a N, O, or S atom and wherein such C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



wherein R³ is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

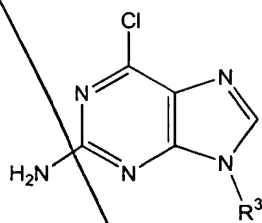
pub
E2
C2

18. (Twice Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)



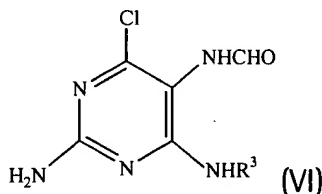
E2
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W.



(VII)

wherein R³ a C₃₋₇ carbocyclic group optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; [a C₂₋₈ hydrocarbyl] an acyclic group, wherein carbon atoms may be substituted by one or more heteroatoms [such as N, O or S_i] and wherein such [C₂₋₈ hydrocarbyl] acyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; or a C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group, wherein at least one carbon atom is replaced by a N, O, or S atom [atom] and wherein such C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

wherein R³ is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

Please add the following new claims:

21. A process according to claim 9 wherein R³ is a C₃₋₇carbocyclic group.
22. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)

sub
C3 E3